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February 20, 2007

February “9Teachers Who Care” Award Announced *Congratulations to Karen Gregg of Lyons Middle-Senior High School*

Lyons, CO – 9NEWS and CollgeInvest are pleased to honor Karen Gregg, the band director at Lyons Middle-Senior High School, with the February “9Teachers Who Care” award.

Students, parents and fellow staff members praise Gregg for her passion, knowledge and commitment to all things musical at Lyons. They say that Gregg’s classroom is a place where students are provided with challenges, unique opportunities and, above all, a role model.

Andrew Forsberg, a student at Lyons Middle-Senior High School, nominated Gregg for the 9Teachers Who Care Award for several reasons including her dedication. “This teacher cares so much about her students,” Forsberg wrote. “When she is expecting to go home an hour after school ends, she will stay another hour or two just to help me or another student with something they’re working on. And I mean whatever they’re working on.”

According to Mark Mills, the principal at Lyons Middle-Senior High School, Gregg has made a tremendous impact on the band program. Since Gregg arrived at the school, student involvement in the band program has increased tremendously; over 30% of the student body at Lyons is involved in band. “If you applied this standard to a larger high school of say 1,000 or 2,000 students, they would have a band of over 300 or 650 students, respectively. I know of no such band in Colorado,” Mills wrote.

Gregg’s achievements at Lyons extend beyond the classroom, according to Mills. Under the instruction of Gregg, several Lyons students have been selected to the All State Jazz Band, the Patriot League Honor Band, and the St. Vrain Valley School District’s Honor Band. Gregg also orchestrated a partnership with a local restaurant to allow members of the Lyons jazz band to play there once a month.

“The city of Lyons is very grateful for the contribution that she has made, educating the youth and sending them off to college to blossom and grow into intelligent, gentle, kind and caring people, just like her,” wrote Brian Schopen, a student at Lyons Middle-Senior High School. “And in all the years that she has done the band program, she has never been forgotten by her students, past and present.”

The “9Teachers Who Care” award was created by 9NEWS and CollegeInvest in 2001 to recognize and profile educators who are making a difference. The program was designed to

highlight the positive stories and outcomes that are happening in Colorado classrooms every day.

CollegeInvest is a not-for-profit division of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Since 1979, CollegeInvest has helped more than half a million families break down the financial barriers to college by providing expert information, simple planning tools, scholarships, 529 college savings plans, and low-cost student and parent loans. For more information, visit www.collegeinvest.org or call 1-888-900-COLLEGE.

Anyone can nominate a teacher for the 9Teachers Who Care award. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Education Page or the Community Page on www.9news.com or requested by calling 303-871-1899.

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